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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

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14 May 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR : Chief, Development Branch, DPO
SUBJECT : Satellite Programs

1. Purpose: According to present planning the last CORONA mission will be flown during September 1962. The E-6 program plans for six launches between April and October, and the LANTAN program will not have its first launching until late next spring. The purpose of this paper is to review the launching schedules, possible technical delaying problems areas and vehicle availability with a view to ensuring that there are no voids in our collection of vital photo reconnaissance intelligence.

2. Status: To date, eleven successful CORONA/CORONA-MIRAL missions have been flown. No ARKON sensors have been successfully retrieved, the E-3 program has been cancelled and one E-6 flight failed. For the present it would appear that the DISCOVERER/CORONA combination is our most reliable photo collection combination. The LANTAN program originally programmed for first launch in January has already slipped to March, and due to the complexity and sophistication of the system there is a possibility that further delays in this program may be encountered. As a partial answer to the problem of continuing photo reconnaissance collection, there are held in reserve the ARKON, eight CORONA/MIRALS and one CORONA triple prime cameras. However, to date, no launch vehicles have been made available to carry these sensors.

3. Recommendation: We should ascertain lead time necessary to procure MIRAL cameras and vehicle system with a view to additional procurements as a protection against delays or development problems in the E-6 and LANTAN programs. Parallel with, but not part of the above, studies should be undertaken with a view to updating and improving the present CORONA/MIRAL system.

SIGNED

Deputy Chief, Development Branch,
DPO

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